



*"Music gives soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination and life to everything" -Plato*

### A Note from Ms. Liz

Dear Families,

I hope you had a relaxing vacation and are looking forward to our many spring activities. In the coming weeks, we will continue to develop new musical skills, prepare for the KITS (theory) evaluation, and choose favorite pieces for our performances in May.

I am hoping to have more students participate in the Piano Monster Festival. I participated in this camp, every June, for seven



years as a camper, and I will be returning for my third year as a counselor. Junior Piano Monster Camp is a great experience for 5<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> graders. This will give them the opportunity to meet other New England piano students, work with Robert Vandall (last year's Composer of the Year), experience other teaching, and participate in two recitals. Financial information about the camp will be available soon. Please let me know if you are at all interested.

Finally, I would like to remind you that there is a semester fee for the piano lessons that insures your child's place in our program. This fee may be fully paid or paid on the first lesson of the month. This is a necessary change in my policy.

Musically,

Liz Hodges  
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## Family Fun

### Johannes Chrysostomus Wolfgangus Theophilus Mozart

**Birthday:** January 27, 1756

**Died:** December 5, 1791

**Period:** Classical

**Country:** Austria

**Known for:** Many masterpieces, including operas, symphonies, string quartets, and piano music



Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart was baptized as Johannes Chrysostomus Wolfgangus Theophilus Mozart, but his family called him Wolferi. He started to compose music when he was five. By the age of six, he was so talented as a pianist and violinist that his father took him with his sister, Nanneri, on tour through Europe where he entertained kings and queens. As an adult, he lived in Vienna where he composed, taught, and performed.

Mozart loved the piano and wrote over 17 piano sonatas and 27 piano concertos along with chamber music. His music is high-spirited and has rich harmonies. Mozart loved to entertain with tricks such as naming a note played on any instrument without seeing it. He also loved mathematics, animals, playing pool, and the color red.

Unfortunately, Mozart was never very healthy, didn't eat well, or get much sleep or exercise. Sadly, this musical genius died when he was just 35 years old. Mozart was very popular as a child, but not so much as an adult. Years after his death, his music was "rediscovered" by audiences and has been enjoyed ever since.

**Some of Mozart's Pieces:** The Magic Flute, Eine Kleine Nachmusick (A Little Night Music), Piano Concerto No. 21

**Listening Activity:** BBC animated production of The Magic Flute:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O7Wp3p3did4>



### More about the Sonata Form

In the **development** section, the two main themes are usually changed. The composer may switch to new, interesting keys. The music may sound as if it is searching for something.

The **recapitulation (recap)** returns to the original main themes. The coda is a short section that is sometimes added to the end. It usually sounds grand and has many scales, arpeggios, and big chords.

## Calendar Update and PSU Musical Events

*The following are free or inexpensive concerts performed by PSU faculty or students (\*indicates when Ms. Liz's teachers will play). We hope that all of you will attend one during the semester. It's an easy way to learn about different kinds of music! Contact the Silver Center for tickets.*

**\*Contemporary Piano Festival Concert —Winners of Competition and PSU Piano Students March 1, 3:15 p.m. Recital Hall**

**\*Faculty Voice Recital, Emily Jaworski and Dan Perkins March 9, 1 p.m. Recital Hall**

**Symphonic Band, April 27, 3 p.m. Hanaway**

**Jazz Ensemble and Combo, May 1, 7 p.m. Hanaway**

**Guitar Ensemble, May 5, 7 p.m. Studio**

**Chamber Players, May 7, 7 p.m. Recital Hall**

### **N.H. Evaluations, May 10, 2014 (REQUIRED)**

All PSU Preparatory Piano Students are required to participate in an evaluation program that is scheduled for Saturday May 10, 2014. Students are assessed in the areas of music reading, vocabulary, listening, and playing. Tests are geared to the student's level and are keyed to practice materials that all PSU preparatory students receive. Each year, the music and life history of a composer are highlighted. This year, the composer is Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. Any student who plays a piece by him will receive a special prize.



### **Junior Piano Monster Festival, June 22 to 25, 2014 (Robert Vandall—Conductor)**

Pianists will be given the opportunity to perform in large ensemble under a conductor and to experience the excitement of teamwork. Students are grouped according to their ability levels and will have instruction in small and large piano ensembles. Please ask me for more information.

Elizabeth Hodges  
(Miss Liz)

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